Kottarakara where there were many Ganaka families. If that was not possible, a grant might be allowed to the Patasala at Koippalli Karanma, which was in existence for the last 27 years.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

VII. EDUCATION.

105. Introduction of certain changes in the Education Department.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Kuzhittura) expressed satisfaction that the educational needs of the people of all classes were receiving the sympathetic and prompt attention of the Dewan and that the instructions issued to the authorities in the matter of admission to the Arts College proved a real blessing to many a son of the soil who otherwise would have had to stop studies. He then referred to the difficulties of the students for the School Final Examination from the present mysterious and unsatisfactory system followed in moderating the marks and awarding certificates and requested that the scheme might be examined with a view to revise it suitably. He then urged the necessity of greater attention being paid to the number and choice of the text-books for each class, those containing objectionable passages being ordered to be scrupulously rejected. The Member next pleaded that drill, as it obtained at present in Girls' schools, should not be enforced in the case of grown-up girls and that the curricula of studies for girls should be modified in view to make them more practical and useful to them.

More money was being spent in increasing the Inspecting staff of the Vernacular Education Department than was necessary. An effective reduction could be made in the number of Assistant Inspectors. There was a complaint that the curriculum of studies for the Vernacular Higher Examination was too high and that the students had to get through a very large number of subjects. It would be a relief, if candidates who failed in one subject were again permitted to appear in that subject alone.

In regard to Elementary education, though it was a matter for regret that Mr. P. K. Kesava Pillai's Bill was rejected by the Legislative Council, the people were glad that, during the present administration, the principle of the Bill was being followed in extending Elementary education as far as possible. He, however, objected to the present practice of requiring the people to put up buildings for schools and equip them and requested that the entire expenditure on that account might be borne by the Government.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to drill, the Director of Public Instruction has issued instructions to stop drill in the case of grown-up girls. Even in the case of other girls, the drill is conducted only in the presence of women teachers and it is not open to public view. In the matter of the superfluity of the supervising staff, Government are unable to agree with the Member's view. The other points are noted.

106. Suggestions for remedying certain defects in the present working of the Education Department.

Mr. P. Sankara Pillai (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) made the following suggestions for improving the condition of education in the State:—

1. Sanskrit should be made a compulsory subject from the 3rd class upwards in all Vernacular schools, as a fair knowledge of that language was necessary to speak and write good Malayalam.

2. The system of teaching English as an optional subject in the 5th and 6th classes in Vernacular schools should be revised in view of the fact that some knowledge of English had become absolutely necessary in all walks of life.

3. A circular had recently been issued by the Director of Public Instruction to the effect that girls should not be given admission into Boys' schools in places where there were Girls' schools also. The Member said that it led to much hardship, as Girls' schools were not so widely distributed as Boys' schools and it had become

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usual to send girls below 11 and 12 years of age to the nearest Boys' schools rather than to the distant Girls' schools. As the average age of pupils up to the 4th class ranged between 5 and 11, it was not necessary to maintain two sets of institutions, one for boys and another for girls, under different heads. The Elementary Girls' schools might either be transferred to the control of the Deputy Director of Public Instruction, or the Elementary Boys' schools to that of the Inspectress of Girls' schools. In regard to the Higher Grade Girls' schools, it was necessary that their number should be increased as far as possible in view to prevent girls above 11 or 12 years of age having to study with boys in the Boys' schools.

4. It was a useful measure of reform to attach industrial classes to some of the Higher Grade Vernacular schools. The scheme should be extended and industrial classes suitable to each locality should be attached to all Higher Grade schools.

Mr. R. K. Cheriyan (Member, Karthigapalli taluk) suggested the introduction of the following reforms:—

1. Sanskrit should be restored to its old position in the syllabus of subjects taught in Vernacular schools.

2. Measures should be taken to increase the production of proper books on scientific subjects in Malayalam.

3. A limit should be placed on the quantity of prose and poetry taught in the several classes in the Vernacular schools.

4. Free-scholarships should be given to poor and deserving pupils.

5. According to standing order No. 6 of 1912, a pupil, once removed from the class for any reason could not go up for the examination that year, but had to continue studies till the close of the next school year. It was necessary that the rigour of the order should be relaxed in consideration of the fact that many pupils were being thus removed on account of their inability to pay the class fees in time. Such pupils should be allowed to go up for the examination, provided they had the requisite attendance in class. The same concession should be allowed to boys who failed to put in sufficient attendance owing to illness or other valid reasons.

6. Only such number of books as were absolutely needed should be chosen as text-books in each class with due regard to the suitability of the class or classes for which the books were intended.

7. Boys and girls should have separate schools as far as possible. Wherever there were such separate schools, girls should not be given admission to the Boys' schools.

8. The pay of teachers in the Vernacular schools should be improved substantially.

9. Provision for an industrial training in Vernacular schools should be made, such training being optional. Industrial schools also should be opened in each district for pupils who showed a special aptitude in any particular subject. Girl pupils should also be brought under the above scheme. The growth of industries which were indigenous to the country should be encouraged.

10. When teachers from aided schools were appointed in Government institutions, their past service in aided schools should be counted towards promotion and pension.

11. Similarly, teachers who were already in the Departmental Vernacular Schools should be given preference in filling up vacancies in the English schools, provided they had the requisite qualifications.

12. The present practice of re-placing male teachers in Girl's schools by women teachers was good. But it would take a long time to accomplish that object, if the existing procedure of transferring male teachers to Boy's schools with a view to give room to women teachers was continued. A better plan would be to transfer qualified teachers to departments other than educational also, so as to bring the reform into effect in a much shorter time.

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To find funds for carrying out some of the suggestions made by the Member, he proposed the following retrenchments :—

1. The Training College and the Training Schools maintained by Government could be abolished and the teachers required to get themselves trained at their own cost, just as officers in such departments as the Forest, P. W. D., &c.

2. Teachers who had put in a service of over 10 years or had distinguished themselves at the Teachers' Associations should be allowed to appear for the Training examination privately.

3. There was no necessity for maintaining the institution of Manual training.

4. The lowest class in the Government Vernacular schools could be abolished and the pupils coming out of the first class in grant-in-aid pial schools and pupils who possessed a good knowledge of the alphabet could be admitted directly to the second class. The grants to the pial schools could be doubled.

5. The number of Assistant Inspectors could be reduced. With the present number, *viz.* 22, they were unable to inspect the same school twice in one year. Even if they were reduced to 15, they would be able to perform the inspection of all the schools once in the course of one year. Besides, the merits and defects of the teachers could be more easely found out at the Teachers' Associations. Hence, by re-organising the Teachers' Associations judiciously, a substantial reduction could be made in the strength of the staff of Assistant Inspectors.

According to the Member the proposals would give a saving of 2 lakhs of rupees, which could be applied towards the introduction of the reforms first proposed by him.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 4-50 P. M.

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